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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Port Information of Tsingtao

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1. Entrance Procedure. [] ship arrived in the Tsingtao area [] Before reaching the port, and while passing Chalintau Island, the vessel was intercepted by a wooden patrol boat of approximately 45 ft which was armed with a machine gun on its bow. Six of seven Chinese soldiers were aboard the small craft. One of these communicated with the vessel by semaphore, a request to lay to for examination. The examination consisted in the small boat making two complete circles about the ship presumably for identification purposes. After this permission was granted to proceed to the port of Tsingtao. The vessel proceeded to 36°N 124°E the designated anchorage on the British Admiralty charts. While anchored, [] one destroyer, apparently in excellent condition, flying the Communist flag. Early the next morning the vessel proceeded into the port of Tsingtao and secured to pier [] The pilot was capable and has been piloting into Tsingtao for a number of years.

2. Dockside Observations. The vessel secured alongside pier [] The line handlers were experienced and the vessel was brought alongside with little or no effort. Upon securing, the ship was boarded by eight government officials. After the usual entrance procedures, six armed government searchers came aboard the vessel. The vessel was thoroughly searched and all cameras, ship's radio equipment, binoculars and navigational equipment were sealed with paper seals. Personal radios, however, were not sealed and the "Voice of America" could be clearly heard. Apparently the Communists made no effort to jam or attempt to interrupt this broadcast. All crew members were photographed in groups of three by official Communist photographers and it is not known what disposition the Communists made of the photographs.

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3. Longshoremen and Dockside Workers. Longshoremen and dockside workers were well dressed by Chinese standards and did not appear to be undernourished. They worked continuously for two days and obviously were experienced longshoremen. The vessel visited at Tsingtao to obtain [redacted] peanut oil and [redacted] eggs [redacted]. The vessel did not discharge anything at Tsingtao. The [redacted] eggs were brought from the cold storage area to the vessel on old obsolete trucks and were put aboard the vessel by use of the ship's gear. The workers did not converse with crew members and at no time was there any indication of bitter feeling among the longshoremen. The peanut oil was brought alongside the vessel by means of a new barge and was pumped aboard the ship.
4. Shore Leave. The crew was granted permission to visit Tsingtao. However, shore leave was limited to one building located close to the docks. Two crew members visited the club and stated that they were given beer and later asked to sign pledges that in the event of war between Communist China and the Western Nations that they would not participate. Upon leaving the club the men were given leaflets of communistic propaganda to distribute to the crew.
5. Naval Activity Observed. At pier three [redacted] three former British destroyers were moored to the dock. The vessels appeared to be in excellent condition and the crew members in good health. Across Great Harbor and to the East is now a naval base and [redacted] it is being utilized as a receiving or training station. Sailors were observed drilling, taking calisthenics and dry firing on anti-aircraft placements. The "little harbor" or "small harbor" located to the south contained several LSTs and LCIs. Four other former British destroyers were seen on maneuvers while leaving Tsingtao. No military aircraft were observed. The vessel left [redacted] and was brought from Great Harbor to the designated anchorage where the pilot left the vessel.

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